

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for of~~ prion decontamination of a physical item comprising

- (i) contacting ~~an entity~~ said physical item to be decontaminated with a detergent,
- (ii) contacting said entity physical item with a first protease,
- (iii) contacting said entity physical item with a second protease, ~~and optionally~~
- ~~(iv) autoclaving said entity.~~

wherein said first and second proteases are different, and where steps (i) to (iii) are performed simultaneously.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6 wherein the first and second proteases are selected from the group consisting of ProteinaseK, papain, pronase, and bromelain.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the first protease is pronase and the second protease is papain.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the first protease is ProteinaseK and the second protease is pronase.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the first protease is pronase and the second protease is ProteinaseK.

11. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 6 wherein the detergent is an ionic detergent.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11 wherein the detergent is an anionic detergent.
13. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein the detergent is SDS.
14. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 6 wherein said ~~entity~~ physical item comprises a surface.
15. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein said surface is a surface of a medical instrument.
16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14 wherein said surface comprises metal.
17. (Original) A method according to claim 16 wherein said metal is steel.
18. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising detergent and ~~a protease~~ two or more proteases selected from the group consisting of ProteinaseK, papain, pronase, and bromelain.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Previously Presented) A kit according to claim 18 wherein said detergent is SDS.
21. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising an ionic detergent and ~~one~~ two or more proteases selected from the group consisting of ProteinaseK, papain, pronase, and bromelain.
22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 21 wherein said detergent is SDS.
- 24-27. (Cancelled)
28. (New) A method of claim 6, further comprising autoclaving said physical item.
29. (New) A method according to claim 6, wherein the temperature is from about 20°C to 60°C.
30. (New) A method according to claim 29, wherein the temperature is room temperature.
31. (New) A method according to claim 30, wherein the temperature is 20°C.
32. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein the final concentration of SDS is 2% to 6%.
33. (New) A method according to claim 32, wherein the final concentration of SDS is 4%.
34. (New) A method according to claim 6, wherein the time of incubation is at least 2 minutes.
35. (New) A method according to claim 6, wherein the prion decontamination is at least 100,000 fold.

36. (New) A method according to claim 35, wherein the prion decontamination is at least 1,000,000 fold.
37. (New) A method according to claim 6, wherein prion decontamination comprises removing prion infectivity.
38. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein prion infectivity is assessed by bioassay.